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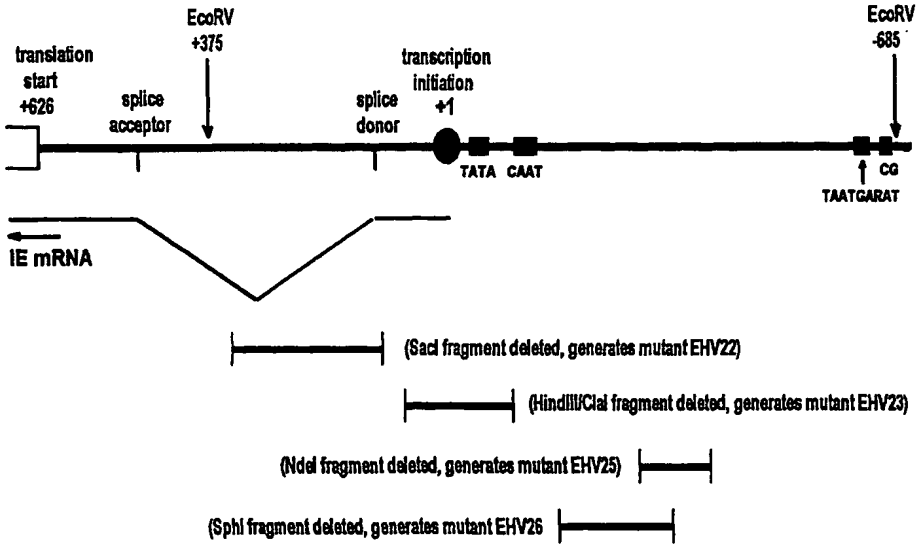

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to novel Equine herpesvirus (EHV) mutants comprising one or more deletions, substitutions, or insertions in the endogenous promoter region of an essential viral gene, preferably the immediate early gene of EHV. The EHV mutants are stable and have reduced virulence, which makes them very suitable for use in a live vaccine. The invention furthermore relates to live vaccines comprising said EHV mutants, to DNA sequences and vectors harbouring a mutated EHV sequence, to host cells transfected with said DNA or vectors. The invention also relates to a method of attenuating EHV in general, and EHV–1 in particular.